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# LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## DAMASCUS, SYRIA

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# Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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25X1

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Monday, April 24, 1950

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### PAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Kifah,  
Al Insha', Al Ayyam, Al Qabas, Al Ba'th, Al Nazir, Al-  
'Alam, Al Shabab, Al Balad, Al Islah, Asa-al-Jannah,  
and Al Naqqad.

### DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

#### BOMBING OF US LEGATION:

All Damascus papers with the exception of Al Qabas and Al 'Alam published the following report released by the Eastern News Agency:

"The Minister of Interior received Saturday morning the American Minister. Following the interview, Mr. Keeley told the correspondent of the Eastern News Agency that he visited Minister Kabbara at the latter's invitation and that the Minister of Interior acquainted him with the results of the investigations.

"The Eastern News Agency which promised to give a daily report on its private investigations states that the bomb was a time bomb of the type which contains three to four kilograms of dynamite. A rectangular hole in the Legation's garden was discovered after the explosion which indicates that the bomb was placed or hidden and that it did not explode as a result

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of being...

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of being thrown. It is also learned that Legation officials left the wing neighboring the garden a few minutes before the explosion. This indicates that they were aware of the imminent explosion. Investigations have also revealed that the Legation garden and the neighboring gardens were watered. Accordingly no person from outside the Legation could have performed this action without leaving his footprints in the wet gardens. It is not customary for a person to throw a four-kilo bomb from a great distance in such a way as to avoid injuring himself by the explosion. Furthermore, the bomb which exploded in the Legation garden in Beirut was of a completely different type from that which exploded in Damascus. This is an irrevocable proof that the perpetrators of the incident were certain Legation officials in Beirut and Damascus and not, as has been alleged, the Communists, the Moslem Brothers, or the followers of Haj Amin al-Husayni. Had the latter committed it the two bombs would have been of the same type.

"The Newsagency is still conducting its inquiries on this subject."

Al 'Alam: The Judge of Inquiry, Mr. Adnan Bey Mardam Bey, has declared that all reports published on the developments of the inquiries on the bombing of the United States' Legation are completely unfounded. Investigations are still in their preliminary stage and the person who committed this action has not been discovered. The investigation has not taken a course different from that which is designed to discover the perpetrators.

Al Masa': The American Minister has flatly denied reports that he had stated that Dawalibi's statement made in Cairo encouraged the throwing of the bomb on the Legation building in Damascus.

#### US DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS!....

Barada, April 24 - The United States Government has informed the Syrian Government that it has appointed Miss McClellan as an Assistant Attache at the American Legation in Damascus. The number of the diplomatic officials of this Legation has reached 17 in addition to the Minister and an "army of consular officials, military and economic attaches, and others".

#### REACTION TO DAWALIBI'S STATEMENT

Al Manar, April 24 - ANA reports that about 100 Syrian lawyers have signed a memorandum addressed to Minister of National Economy Dr. Ma'aruf al-Dawalibi supporting his statement, and congratulating him for his courage and daring in adopting such a firm attitude toward the Western democratic states.

The following story is related by this Moslem Brotherhood organ:

At the banquet.....

At the banquet which was given in honor of the Prime Minister at the Orient Palace Hotel, the US Minister who could no longer withhold his rage from the apparent rapprochement between Minister Dawalibi and USSR Minister Solod remarked to Premier 'Azm, "Look, even the necktie of Dr. Dawalibi is 'red'!" Overhearing the conversation, the intelligent Syrian Minister turned up the tie and said to the American Minister, "Look, Your Excellency, this tie is of US manufacture. What shall we do? You make it and we wear it."

The paper comments: "Dr. Dawalibi's reply is an intelligent expression of the people's feeling."

Al Hadara: April 24 - Minister Dawalibi stated that it was the repugnant attitude of the American Minister in Cairo which compelled him to make his statement. "The American Minister," Dr. Dawalibi added, "insisted that the Arab League conclude a peace agreement with the Jews."

Minister Dawalibi concluded: "I wonder when the Americans will understand that they are not the masters of the world and that the world population is not composed of American Indians and negroes."

#### FRENCH MINISTER BIDDING FAREWELL

Al Ayyam, April 24 - On the occasion of his transfer to another post, the French Minister, Mr. Jean Serres, called on the Chief of State 'pour prendre conge'. The Chief of State conferred upon the French Minister a Syrian Merit Medal, Cl. Exc.

#### PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATION

Al Nasr, April 24: Competent Palestinian bodies in Syria have petitioned the Syrian Government's permission to organize a peaceful demonstration in the streets of Damascus to express their dissatisfaction and disgust with Jordanian attempts to annex the Arab portion of Palestine to the Kingdom of Jordan. It is reported that the Government has refused to grant them such a permit.

#### SYRIAN ARMY'S EVACUATION OF TEL AZIZIYAT

Alif Ba': A reliable source in the Syrian Army has labelled as untrue press reports that the Syrian Army had evacuated the Tel-Aziziyat and Al-Hammah strongholds in Palestine. The source added that the Army destroyed one of the fortresses in Tel-Aziziyat in view of its location within the demilitarized areas.

#### A BRITISH CONSPIRACY IN ALEPPO

Al Masa', supplement of Al Manar, reports that a serious conspiracy plotted by the PPC employees on instructions from the British masters and aimed at inciting disturbances between the Moslems and the Christians in Aleppo has been discovered. The conspiracy is summarized as follows:

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Early one morning the inhabitants of Midan, the Armenian quarter in Aleppo, awoke to find the front of a mosque badly dirtied. Had it not been for cool heads, both Moslem and Armenian, the incident would have resulted in unfortunate consequences.

A meeting was then arranged between the Moslem and Armenian leaders. They agreed to appoint a squad to watch the mosque at night. They did so. At night a jeep stopped in front of the mosque and two persons stepped out to deface again the front of the Mosque. When caught, they were discovered to be employees of the IPC in Aleppo.

#### HOT WEATHER STIMULATES THE BLOOD AND FOMENTS TROUBLES

Al Nasr: A fiery quarrel took place between the inhabitants of Qaniya and Ankhal, near Sanamin, in Hawran. A small force of gendarmerie which was sent to the scene to check the fight was also stoned. Reinforcements were sent to arrest instigators from both parties.

In Salamiyah, another fight was reported in which one person was killed and another wounded.

#### JOURNALISTS DEPARTING FOR QUWEIT

Barada, April 23 - Nasuh Babil, editor-owner of Al Ayyam, Wadih Sidawi, editor-owner of Al Nasr, and Wajih al-Haffar, editor-owner of Al Insha' left for Quweit on a special plane hired for them by the Contracting and Trade Corporation. The Syrian journalists were accompanied by Mr. Kamil Muruwi, the editor of Al Hayat, and Mr. Sa'id Sarbiya, of Kul Sha'i, both Lebanese papers.

#### SYRIAN MINISTER IN MOSCOW EXPECTED

*Can* Al Manar: Rumors have it that the Syrian Minister in Moscow, Mr. Farid Zayn-al-Din, will arrive shortly in Damascus to report on the Russian political trends toward various issues including the Palestine question.

#### US GIFTS TO SCHOOL BOYS

Al 'Alam: A columnist reports that a large number of American gifts and pictures have been presented to the pupils of state schools and have had an unfortunate effect upon these pupils who are shortly facing examinations. The columnist inquires, "Is not the Ministry of Public Instruction responsible for these crimes committed by American propaganda through gifts and pictures?"

#### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

#### BEER FACTORY IN SYRIA

Al Manar: The Ministry of National Economy has consented to the

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transfer of 'Jallad Beer Factory' from Lebanon to Syria.

Al Namar: It is reported that the Lebanese 'Jabir Biscuit Company' has petitioned the Syrian Government's permission to move its biscuit factory to Syria.

## ARAB AFFAIRS

### CAMPAIGN FOR TRUTH

Alif Ba' of April 23 published an article commenting on the speech which President Truman delivered a few days ago at a party given in his honor by the Society of Newspapers Editors. In this speech, President Truman called upon the American editors to launch a campaign of truth to thwart communist propaganda. He also recommended that many foreigners be invited to visit America.

The paper advises the Arabs to follow Truman's plan and to launch a campaign of abstract truth to thwart false Zionist propaganda. The Arabs should communicate to the champion of the campaign of truth the truth about the Palestine problem and the fact that the disasters which have befallen the Arabs in Palestine are due to his pro-Zionist policy.

The paper strongly welcomes President Truman to visit the Arab countries and witness for himself the extent of misery into which the Arab refugees have befallen. Had President Truman been acquainted with the appalling conditions of the Palestinian Arab refugees, he would have thought twice before instructing his representatives to exert pressure on the Arab delegations to the Arab League Council in Cairo and convince them to negotiate a peace treaty with Israel.

Al Masa' of April 24 comments on a statement in President Truman's speech which asserts that the forces of imperialist communism are challenging the cause of freedom in every part of the world and that communist propaganda is false and misleading. The paper observes that President Truman, while delivering his speech, forgot that America, the first champion of peace, had more than once betrayed the cause of peace, and sacrificed the cause of justice on the altar of its attempt to extend its imperialist influence. The paper adds that it does not attempt to defend communism whose propaganda is probably false, but it wishes that such accusations against communism had been directed by a state which had not violated the freedom of other people by depriving them of their right of self-determination and ousting them to give room to alien people. If the American people are anxious to maintain the cause of freedom, they should realize that their government and their respected President are among the first to stab and challenge the cause of freedom.

### MINISTER DAWALIBI'S DECLARATIONS .....

Al Masa' of April 23 published an editorial welcoming a recent  
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declaration.....

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declaration by Minister Dawalibi, in which he stated that Syria intended to negotiate with Russia the exchange of Syrian agricultural products for Russian industrial equipment in view of the shortage of dollars in Syria. The paper remarks that Minister Dawalibi's declaration has been received with satisfaction by industrial and commercial circles in Syria. The paper adds that the Soviet Minister to Syria has reacted favorably to Minister Dawalibi's proposal and stated that Russia was willing to extend both its hands even if Syria extended only one. Syria, concludes the paper, should be directed by its own interests in its relations with foreign countries.

Al Fayha' of April 23 reminds its readers that not only the United States, but also the Soviet Union, has supported the Jews and supplied them with arms and volunteers. During the most critical stages of the Palestine problem, a head of one of the Arab delegations to the United Nations contacted M. Gromyko and inquired as to what attitude the Soviet Union would adopt if the Arab delegations supported him in the UN debates. In reply M. Gromyko said that he would welcome Arab support, if the Arabs agreed to the establishment of a Jewish state.

Even if Syria becomes a Soviet Republic, what guarantee would there be to ensure the liberation of Palestine from Zionist domination, or to make the Arabs have confidence in the policy and programs of Soviet Russia. If Syria concludes a non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union and a third world war breaks out, what would be its attitude towards Turkey which is determined to enter a war of life and death against Russia, or towards Iraq, our neighboring Arab sister-state, which is more exposed to danger than any other Arab country? Furthermore, the western and eastern states which will be involved in the future war, are not expected to endanger their military operations out of their respect for our non-aggression pact with Russia. The history of the First and Second World Wars are still fresh in our memory, and it does not require great political skill to predict future events. It should also be noted that our geographical and strategic position has invariably dictated the policy which should be adopted. We should further like to inquire whether the Soviet Union, in case a non-aggression pact is concluded, would supply the Arab states with the arms which they are now receiving from the western states, which, in turn, receive them gratis from the United States. Were the Soviet Union to supply us with arms, what measures would the democratic states take to implement their strategic and military plan. Would we then be protected by Minister Dawalibi's declarations and his 'tactful courtesy' with which he is reported to have overwhelmed both the American and Russian Ministers at a party and to have created an atmosphere of accord and goodwill?

Our present situation is difficult. It cannot be remedied by cries of pain, whims of frenzy, retaliatory retorts or courteous representations, but by sound policy and statements and by continued effective actions performed in silence.

Al-Fayha' of April 24 fears that the motive behind Minister Dawalibi

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declaration was to alienate America from Syria and induce it to wash its hands of our country and give Britain the opportunity to implement its project for annexing Syria to Iraq or Jordan. The paper observes that Minister Dawalibi confined his invective to America and failed to make any reference to Britain which first issued the Balfour Declaration and later encouraged Jewish immigration and established the Jewish state by preventing Iraq and Jordan from fighting in Palestine. The paper also reminds its readers that Minister Dawalibi is a member of the People's Party and a member of the present Constituent Assembly which is the outcome of the activity of Britain and General Sami al-Hinnawi, and which is associated with the proposal for annexing Syria to Iraq or Jordan.

#### CAMPAIGN AGAINST SAUDI KING

Al-Fayha' of April 23 attacks the campaign now being conducted by certain Damascene and other Arab papers against H.M. King Abd al-'Aziz al-Saud. The paper observes that the purpose of this campaign is to distract the attention of the Arabs from the responsible leaders in Iraq and Jordan whom it is difficult to defend after their contact with the Jews has been proven by the publication of zincograph documents. If the entire Arab nation is responsible for the Palestine tragedy, King 'Abd al-'Aziz is less responsible than the traitors who have conspired with the Jews at the expense of the Palestinian Arab population. King Abd al-'Aziz has actively participated in the Palestine war by contributing considerable sums of money and by sending Saudi soldiers to fight in Palestine. Two thousand Saudi soldiers lost their lives in the Palestine war, whereas Iraq and Jordan incurred no losses in lives.

#### CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, MEETING of APRIL 22, 1950:

From all papers: At Saturday's meeting of the Constituent Assembly a proposal presented by 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dandashi (Tel-Kalakh) that the Assembly's opinion be sought on the case filed by President Kikhya against "Barada" was defeated. President Kikhya promised to consider favorably the mediation of the Dean of the Press Syndicate in this respect.

Premier 'Azm then delivered a statement in which he praised the spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation which prevailed during the discussions of the Arab League. He added that the decisions of the Political Committee and of the Arab League Council were of a serious and important nature, 'Azm said that he had already read a detailed statement on the Arab League discussions to the Foreign Relations Committee and that he would like to acquaint the whole assembly with a summary of the deliberations of the Arab League.

'Azm stated that when he heard the reports on a projected Jordan-Israeli peace agreement he drew the attention of the Jordanian Minister in Beirut to the serious consequences of a unilateral peace agreement with Israel, not only from the political angle but from the economic angle as well, which the Arab countries oppose with all their might.

He added: "I informed the Jordanian Minister that in case ~~xx~~ a peace agreement was concluded with the Jews which permitted the infiltration of Zionist products into Syria through Jordan, we would be compelled to close our frontiers with Jordan."

'Azm went on to say that following the withdrawal of his resignation by the Jordanian Prime Minister and his return to power the peace story died. The Syrian delegation went to Cairo hoping to hear from Jordan an official denial to the story. Discussions were conducted between the Arab delegates and the Jordanian Minister in this respect. Later the Political Committee, in the absence of the Jordanian delegation, took a decision prohibiting any Arab state from making any type of peace agreement with the Jews. When the decision was referred to the Arab League Council, it was approved unanimously.

Premier 'Azm went on to narrate the developments of the PCC activities. He said that the PCC suggested last month that delegates of the Arab countries sit at a round table with the Jews to discuss a new proposal which it wanted to keep secret until a joint meeting of the Arabs and Jews is held. In order to show international circles that the Arabs are not hampering PCC activity, the Arab delegations agreed to inform the PCC of their acceptance to its invitation provided that the Jews agree in advance to the return of all refugees who desire to return to their homes, in accordance with the decision of

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With regard to the annexation of the Arab sector of Palestine to Jordan, 'Azm expressed the hope that Jordan would not resort to this step which is contradictory to declarations made by Arab Kings and leaders before entering the Palestine war that they were not seeking any territorial expansion.

With regard to the Collective Security pact, he said that the pact had no aggressive design but was made to repel aggression against any Arab country. The Syrian Government considers the pact a bold step towards achieving Arab unity. However, Syria and the other Arab countries consider it essential that every one of them should depend on its own army.

The Assembly decided to debate 'Azm's statement on Saturday, April 29.

It also decided to begin the debate on the draft constitution on May 8, 1950.

MOVIES THIS WEEK:

D U N I A

THE FLEMINGO ROAD

JOAN CRAWFORD  
ZACHARY SCOTT  
SIDNEW GREENSTREET.

R O X Y

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

(For Second week)